

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
AT CHARLESTON

DON BLANKENSHIP,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 2:19-cv-00589

THE BOSTON GLOBE MEDIA PARTNERS, LLC
(D/B/A THE BOSTON GLOBE), and
DOES 1-50 INCLUSIVE,

Defendants.

ORDER

Pending is the parties' joint motion to continue trial and modify the scheduling order, filed on August 14, 2020 (ECF No. 44).

The parties allege that, despite diligent efforts to complete discovery, the parties will not be able to conclude discovery by the September 8, 2020 deadline to be ready for trial on January 20, 2021. The parties cite the depth and breadth of information and documents necessary to complete discovery, along with delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as the reasons for the delay. Additionally, the court notes the common issues between the above-styled case and the cases of Blankenship v. Fox News Network, LLC, Civ. No. 2:19-cv-00236, and Blankenship v.

NBCUniversal, LLC, Civ. No. 2:20-cv-00278, which are proceeding along the schedule set forth below.

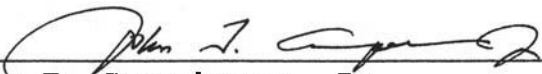
"A schedule may be modified only for good cause and with the judge's consent." Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4); see also L.R. Civ. P. 16.1(f)(1). The court finds good cause to amend the scheduling order. It is therefore ORDERED that the remainder of the case shall proceed as follows:

Deadline	Date
Last date to serve discovery requests	02/16/2021
Opening Rule 26 expert disclosures	02/01/2021
Responsive Rule 26 expert disclosures	03/03/2021
Rebuttal Rule 26 expert disclosures	03/19/2021
Discovery to close	05/03/2021
Dispositive motions deadline	05/24/2021
Response to dispositive motion	06/07/2021
Reply to response to dispositive motion	06/14/2021
Settlement meeting	08/06/2021
Motion in limine deadline	08/20/2021
Responses for motions in limine	08/27/2021
Proposed pretrial order to defendants	08/20/2021
Integrated pretrial order	09/03/2021
Pretrial conference	09/17/2021 10:00 AM
Proposed jury charge	10/04/2021
Final settlement conference	10/18/2021 10:00 AM
Trial	10/19/2021 9:30 AM

With the exception of the above modifications, the requirements and directives of the original scheduling order shall remain in full force and effect.

The Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this order to all counsel of record and any unrepresented parties.

ENTER: September 1, 2020



John T. Copenhaver, Jr.
Senior United States District Judge